

12. (TWICE AMENDED) A spool for a valve for controlling the flow of fluids, said valve having a body including a cavity for receiving said spool, said cavity having an axis and at least one port defining a first fluid passage, and said spool comprising:

- a first port-blocking portion and a stem positioned around a central axis for alignment with the axis of said cavity;

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- said spool being movable axially within said cavity between first and second positions so that, when said spool is in said first position, said first fluid passage is blocked by said first port-blocking portion, and, when said spool is in said second position, fluids are permitted to move past said stem and through said first fluid passage; and

- said stem defining a stem passageway formed by one of (a) no sidewalls with a central support [comprising a non-cylindrical curved surface shaped aerodynamically], and (b) a pair of sidewalls with said stem passageway formed therebetween, said central support and said sidewalls, when viewed in cross section perpendicular to said central axis, having non-circular curved surfaces shaped aerodynamically, and said central support and said sidewalls also being positioned relative to said respective first fluid port of said cylinder to permit the flow of fluids through said stem passageway and through said first fluid port when said stem portion is aligned therewith.

#### REMARKS

The inadvertently omitted reference numeral identifying prior art spool 44 has been supplied to FIG. 3, and confusing erroneous reference numerals for identifying inventive spool 44a and its associated stem 60a and roller 66a have been corrected on pages 7 and 8 of the specification.

Claims 3, 4, 11, 16, and 18 were provisionally withdrawn as nonelected species pending allowance of generic claims.